Morale of the Defence Forces after Hijack Episode

1380. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air force met the Prime Minister and apprised their feelings on the issue of hijacking of Boeing IC-814;

(b) if so, the views expressed by them in detail;

(c) whether the morale of the Defence Forces have received a set-back due to release of hard core terrorists; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to keep the morale of the Armed Forces at its peak?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister had discussed the security implications of the hijacking of IA flight 814 with, amongst others, the three Service Chiefs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Army Recruitment from H.P.

1381. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that army recruitment was done during and after Kargil war; and

(b) if so, the number of persons recruited and for whcih category from Himachal Pradesh, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. Normal recruitment did take place. There was no special recruitment during this period.

(b) The information is being collected.